

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

3 December 1984



Dear Professor 

I must apologize for the delay in responding to your 12 October 1984 letter from Jerusalem, which I received 29 October.

Your request for a search of CIA files has to be handled according to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Since the Agency's Information and Privacy Coordinator, Mr. John H. Wright, is responsible under law for FOIA requests, I am sending him your letter for action.

I should add that in light of your report that Trebitsch-Lincoln died in 1943, the files of CIA--which was not established until September 1947--are unlikely to have information on him. On the other hand, there may be information on him in the World War II operational records of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), which have been in CIA's custody. I'm glad to report that these OSS files have been recently declassified and are now being transferred to the National Archives. Several hundred cubic feet of these OSS records are already at the Archives and open to researchers as part of Record Group 226; CIA will transfer the remainder in increments over the next six months or so.

If you wish to inquire about the OSS records at the National Archives I would suggest that you contact:

Mr. John E. Taylor
National Archives
Washington, DC 20408
(Telephone (202) 523 3340)

I'll send Mr. Taylor, who is the expert on these (and other modern military) records, a copy of this letter and of your 12 October letter to me.

I hope this will be of some help in your research.

Yours sincerely,

J. Kenneth McDonald
Chief Historian

STAT

cc: Mr. Wright
Mr. Taylor

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12 October 1984

Chief Historian
Central Intelligence Agency
WASHINGTON D. C. 20505

Dear Sir:

I am currently engaged in research concerning the Hungarian-born adventurer, Ignatius, Timothy Trebitsch-Lincoln (1879 - 1943).

Trebitsch-Lincoln spent his last years mainly in China where he was said to be a Japanese agent. He died in Shanghai in October 1943. In October 1946, in a trial before a U. S. court in Shanghai, Hermann Erben, former U. S. citizen, who acknowledged he had been a German spy in the service of the 'Bureau Erhardt spy network in the Orient, stated that Trebitsch-Lincoln had been a spy for the Nazis in World War II.

I wonder whether the files of the CIA contain any information which would serve to verify this statement — or any other information concerning Trebitsch-Lincoln ? If so, could I be permitted to see any relevant papers ?

I should greatly appreciate your help.

Yours sincerely,



Professor

STAT

sent from Jerusalem
2 OCT 1984